

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9334

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW

SUBJECT: PREMIER'S APRIL 23 INTERVIEW WITH VISITING US JOURNALISTS

1. APRIL 29 LOCAL PRESS CARRIED WHAT PURPORTS TO BE THE "FULL RECORD" OF AN APRIL 23 INTERVIEW BETWEEN PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO AND A VISITING GROUP OF US WEST AND PACIFIC COAST JOURNALISTS. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW, WHICH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON US/ROC RELATIONS.

2. QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ROC AND THE US?

3. ANSWER: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US HAS A LONG HISTORY. IN PAST YEARS THE UPS AND DOWNS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ROC AND THE US HAVE HAD FAR-REACHING EFFECTS IN ASIA.... WE HOPE THAT THE US UNDERSTANDS THAT MAINTENANCE OF THE TRADITIONAL CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROC IS IN ITS OWN INTEREST. SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON, AN ISLAND DEFENSE CHAIN FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN THE NORTH THROUGH JAPAN, THE RYUKYUS AND THE ROC TO THE PHILIPPINES IN THE SOUTH, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS AN

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OUTPOST OF THE DEFENSES OF THE WEST COAST OF THE US AND

ALSO CONSTITUTES A STABILIZING FORCE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONTINUATION OF THE TRADITIONAL CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND THE ROC IS AN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARD OF AMERICAN SECURITY AND IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS SEEN FROM EITHER THE PERSPECTIVE OF TANGIBLE INTEREST OR MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. BEFORE MAKING ANY CRITICAL DECISION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US SHOULD TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION.

5. QUESTION: YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS OVERCOME MANY DIPLOMATIC SETBACKS. WHAT IS YOUR POLICY FOR DEALING WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE ADVERSITIES?

6. ANSWER:....BASICALLY, WE MUST ESTABLISH OURSELVES AND RELY ON OURSELVES.

7. QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THE REPORT THAT THE US MAY GIVE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS MILITARY AID?

8. ANSWER: FOR THE US TO GIVE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS MILITARY AID WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE. MILITARY AID TO THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS REGIME...WOULD BE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE AMERICAN NATIONAL SPIRIT OF LOVE FOR FREEDOM AND ADHERENCE TO DEMOCRACY...IF ANYONE IN THE US THINKS OF GIVING THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS MILITARY HARDWARE, THAT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO "FEEDING THE TIGER SO IT COULD LATER DEVOUR THE FEEDER."

9. TO THINK THAT THE GIVING OF MILITARY AID TO THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WOULD DETER THE SOVIET UNION FROM AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION IS PURELY ILLUSORY, AND FINALLY WOULD LEAD TO A CONTRARY RESULT, ABET THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS RACE AND INCREASE THE DANGER OF INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT.

10. QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE MILITARY AID THAT THE US GIVES TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

11. ANSWER: THERE IS BASICALLY A LARGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO THE US. THE DIFFERENCE IS THIS: IN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLIANCE WITH THE US, WE ATTACH THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO MUTUAL RELIANCE BASED ON MORALITY AND TO MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION BASED ON OUR FUNDAMENTAL COMMON INTEREST. THIS IS OUR BASIC POSITION.

12. ...WE HAVE DONE OUR UTMOST TO COOPERATE WITH THE US IN VARIOUS WAYS. MILITARILY, WE SURELY HOPE THAT WE CAN OBTAIN US SUPPORT IN STRENGTHENING OUR DEFENSES....

EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY FOR "SELF-RELIANCE" AND SO HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCREASED OUR OWN STRENGTH.

13. MEANWHILE, I HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE US ARE AWARE THAT THE ROC IS THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY FRIEND OF THE US. WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE US AND WISH THAT THE US DO THE SAME. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN ALL THE WORLD IT WOULDN'T BE EASY FOR THE US TO FIND ANOTHER FRIEND SO RELIABLE AS THE ROC.

14. QUESTION: WOULD YOU PLEASE DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF MAINLAND RECOVERY?

15. ANSWER: I DO NOT DENY THAT THE RECOVERY OF THE MAINLAND IS A VERY DIFFICULT TASK. BUT WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN CARRY IT OUT. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN THE MAINLAND, MUCH LESS OUR DUTY TO OUR COMPATRIOTS THERE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT EVENTUALLY WE SHALL RETURN TO THE MAINLAND AND RECOVER IT....

16. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PREMIER'S INTERVIEW CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, IT IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE GROC'S VIEW OF US/ROC RELATIONS THAT HAS APPEARED IN RECENT MONTHS AND THE ONLY OFFICIAL COMMENT THUS FAR ON ALLEGED US CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PRC. FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. UNGER

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